

March 30, 1978

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-78-68

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This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of an event of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information presented is as initially received without verification or evaluation and is basically all that is known by IE staff on this date.

Facility: Metropolitan Edison Company (DN 50-320)
Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 2
Middletown, Pennsylvania

STERNBERG
MAR 31, 1978

TMI
MAR 29, 1978

Subject: REACTOR TRIP AND SUBSEQUENT BLOWDOWN WITH SAFETY INJECTION
ACTUATION

A reactor trip occurred at 2:30 p.m., on March 29, 1978, during Engineered Safeguard System testing following initial criticality on March 28. The cause of the trip was determined to be the loss of a vital bus. Loss of the vital bus resulted in a loss of power to Electromatic Relief Valve, which fails open on a power loss. The opening of this relief valve resulted in a depressurization of the primary system. As the pressure decreased to 1600 psi, all safety injection pumps operated. Operation of the safety injection system resulted in post accident Sodium Hydroxide (NaOH) being injected into the primary system.

Preliminary analysis indicates that no limits were exceeded because of this event. Primary concern at this point is to clean up the NaOH in the primary system. Cleanup by ion exchanger and feed and bleed is in progress and may take from 2 to 7 days.

The licensee is considering several design changes as a result of this occurrence.

Region I is sending an inspector to the site to review this event.

Media interest is not expected. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been informed. A press release is not planned by the licensee or NRC.

NRC, Region I, (Philadelphia) received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the Unit Superintendent at 9:45 p.m., on March 30, 1978.

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Distribution: Transmitted H St 3:00

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